THE FIRST SET OF CATECHISMS AND PRAYERS: OR, THE RELIGION OF LITTLE CHILDREN

Under Seven or Eight Years of Age.

Collected out of the larger Books of PRAYERS and CATECHISMS for Children and Youth.

By I. WATTS, D. D.

The NINETEENTH EDITION.

LONDON:

Printed for J. BUCKLAND, and T. LONGMAN, in Pater-noster-row; C. DILLY, in the Poultry; and T. FIELD, N° 41, Cornhill.

M.DCC.LXXXVI.

[Price 2d. or 1s. 6d. per Dozen.]

PREFACE.

THE

PREFACE.

THERE are two Books which I have lately compoſed for the Inſtruction and Aſſiſtance of Childhood and Youth, in the Knowledge and Practice of the Chriſtian Religion, according to their different Ages. The one is, a large Collection of PRAYERS for their Uſe and Imitation; *and the other is, a Book of* CATECHISMS, *or a whole Courſe of* Inſtructions in the Principles of the Chriſtian Religion, and the Hiſtory of Scripture.

I have been engaged, by the Requeſt of many of my Friends, to print the ſeveral Catechiſms *ſuited to each ſeveral Stage of Childhood and Youth, ſeparate by themſelves, and I have added ſome few ſhort Prayers alſo out of the Book of* PRAYERS.

This firſt Set of Catechiſms *and* Prayers *is compoſed as follows.*

The firſt thing is, the young Child's CATECHISM of the Principles of Religion, from

three or four Years old to ſeven or eight, *which contains twenty-four ſhort Queſtions.*

In the ſecond Place, I have put the Catechism of Scripture Names for young Children, *that they may be early atquainted with ſome ſlight Sketches of the Scripture Hiſtory, which are neceſſary in order to underſtand the Chriſtian Religion the better. This may be learnt at the ſame Time with the foregoing Catechiſm, and that they may be carried on together.*

At the End there are inſerted the Morning and Evening Prayers for very young Children, and Graces before and after Meat, *from three or four Years old to ſeven or eight, taken out of the ſame Book of* Prayers, *which is mentioned before.*

In all theſe Catechiſms and Prayers, if Parents or Teachers diſlike any Word or Expreſſion, they may change it at pleaſure, and put a better in the Room of it. But there are three Propoſals *or* Requeſts *that I would here make to them.*

Firſt, *Though the Catechiſms, and a few Prayers which Children ſhould learn by heart in the firſt Stages of their Childhood, are now printed by themſelves, yet it would be a conſiderable Advantage to have the other Catechiſms and Prayers put into their Hands, that*

they

they might read those which are designed for the Instruction of Children who are a few Years older, as Lessons, at Home or at School: Hereby they will be rendered familiar to their Minds beforehand, and they will learn them afterwards with much more Ease and Speed. For this Purpose I have continued to publish them altogether in a new Edition.

Secondly, *That they would take all due Pains to make Children* understand *every Word and Sentence of the Catechisms and Prayers, if possible, before they learn them by heart, or at least while they are learning them; that they may not gabble over mere Sounds and Syllables, and pronounce them as Parrots do, without a Meaning, which Practice hath neither Reason nor Religion in it.*

Thirdly, *That they would not only pray for their Children daily themselves, but appoint them proper Seasons and Places in the Morning and Evening to address themselves to God in Prayer, and teach the young Creatures to do it with all Seriousness and Solemnity, that Religion may begin betimes in their Heart and Practice.*

THE FIRST CATECHISM OF THE PRINCIPLES of RELIGION:

OR,

The Catechiſm for a *young Child*, to be begun at three or four Years old.

1 Queſtion. CAN you tell me, Child, who made you?

Anſwer. The great GOD, who made Heaven and Earth.

2 Q. What doth GOD do for you?

A. He keeps me from Harm by Night and by Day, and is always doing me Good.

3 Q. And what muſt you do for this great GOD who is ſo good to you?

A. I muſt learn to know him firſt, and then I muſt do every thing to pleaſe him.

4 Q. Where doth GOD teach us to know him and to pleaſe him?

A.

A. In his holy Word, which is contained in the Bible.

5 Q. Have you learned to know who GOD is?

A. GOD is a Spirit; and though we cannot ſee him, yet he ſees and knows all Things, and he can do all Things.

6 Q. What muſt you do to pleaſe GOD?

A. I muſt do my Duty both towards GOD and towards Man.

7 Q. What is your Duty to GOD?

A. My Duty to GOD, is to fear and honour him, to love and ſerve him, to pray to him, and to praiſe him.

8 Q. What is your Duty to Man?

A. My Duty to Man, is to obey my Parents, to ſpeak the Truth always, and to be honeſt and kind to all.

9 Q. What Good do you hope for by ſeeking to pleaſe GOD?

A. Then I ſhall be a Child of GOD, and have GOD for my Father and my Friend for ever.

10 Q. And what if you do not fear GOD, nor love him, nor ſeek to pleaſe him?

A. Then I ſhall be a wicked Child, and the great GOD will be very angry with me.

11 Q. Why are you afraid of GOD's Anger?

A. Becauſe he can kill my Body, and he can make my Soul miſerable after my Body is dead.

12 Q. But have you never done any thing to make GOD angry with you already?

A. Yes, I fear I have too often ſinned againſt GOD, and deſerved his Anger.

13 Q. What do you mean by ſinning againſt GOD?

A. To ſin againſt GOD, is to do any Thing that GOD forbids me, or not to do what GOD commands me.

14 Q. And what muſt you do to be ſaved from the Anger of GOD which your Sins have deſerved?

A. I muſt be ſorry for my Sins, I muſt pray to GOD to forgive me what is paſt, and ſerve him better for the Time to come.

15 Q. Will GOD forgive you if you pray for it?

A. I hope he will forgive me, if I truſt in his Mercy, for the Sake of what JESUS CHRIST has done, and what he has ſuffered.

16 Q. Do you know who Jeſus Chriſt is?

A. He is GOD's own Son, who came down from Heaven to ſave us from our Sins, and from GOD's Anger.

17 Q. What has CHRIST done towards the ſaving of Men?

A. He obeyed the Law of GOD himſelf, and hath taught us to obey it alſo.

18 Q. And what has CHRIST ſuffered in order to ſave Men?

A. He died for Sinners who have broke the Law of GOD, and who deſerved to die themſelves.

19 Q. Where is JESUS CHRIST now?

A. He is alive again, and gone to Heaven, to provide a Place there for all that ſerve GOD, and love his Son JESUS.

20 Q. Can you of yourſelf love and ſerve GOD and CHRIST?

A. No, I cannot do it of myſelf, but GOD will help me by his own Spirit if I aſk him for it.

21 Q. Will JESUS CHRIST ever come again?

A. CHRIST will come again, and call me and all the World to account for what we have done.

22 Q. For what Purpoſe is this Account to be given?

A. That the Children of GOD, as well as the Wicked, may all receive according to their Works.

23 Q. What muſt become of you if you are wicked?

A. If I am wicked I ſhall be ſent down

to everlasting Fire in Hell among wicked and miserable Creatures.

24 Q. And whither will you go if you are a Child of GOD?

A. If I am a Child of GOD I shall be taken up to Heaven, and dwell there with GOD and CHRIST for ever. *Amen.*

Advertisement to TEACHERS.

THE following Catechism of Scripture-Names *is to be taught at the same Time with the foregoing* Catechism of the Principles of Religion.

You will find here that the Name *of the Person is always contained in the Question, and the Answer declares his* Character: *But in order to teach Children to pronounce the* Name *right, as well as to learn the* Character *of the Persons, Parents or Teachers may ask the same Question backward or forward,* viz. Who was Adam? *Ans.* The first Man that GOD made, &c. *And then* Q. Who was the first Man that GOD made? *Ans.* Adam. *By learning this both Ways, Children will be better acquainted with the Names as well as the Characters and Actions of the Persons mentioned.*

THE CATECHISM OF SCRIPTURE-NAMES FOR LITTLE CHILDREN.

The Scripture-Names in the Old Testament.

1 Q. WHO was *Adam?*

A. The first Man that GOD made, and the Father of us all.

2 Q. Who was *Eve?*

A. The first Woman, and she was the Mother of us all.

3 Q. Who was *Cain?* A. *Adam's* eldest Son, and he killed his Brother *Abel.*

4 Q. What was *Abel?*

A. A better Man than *Cain*, and therefore *Cain* hated him.

5 Q. Who was *Enoch?*

A. The Man who pleased GOD *, and he was taken up to Heaven without dying.

* The usual Character of *Enoch* is, that he *walked with God*; but this Phrase is above the Understanding of Children. Nor is it given only to *Enoch* in Scripture, for *Noah also walked with God*, Gen. vi. 9. I have rather therefore expressed it that *Enoch pleased God*, as in *Heb.* xi. 5.

6 Q. Who was *Noah?*

A. The good Man who was ſaved when the World was drowned.

7 Q. Who was *Job?* A. The moſt patient Man under Pains and Loſſes.

8 Q. Who was *Abraham?* A. The Pattern of Believers *, and the Friend of GOD.

9 Q. Who was *Iſaac?* A. *Abraham*'s Son according to GOD's Promiſe.

10 Q. Who was *Sarah?* A. *Abraham*'s Wife, and ſhe was *Iſaac*'s Mother.

11 Q. Who was *Jacob?*

A. *Iſaac*'s younger Son, and he craftily obtained his Father's Bleſſing.

12 Q. What was *Iſrael?* A. A new Name that GOD himſelf gave to *Jacob*.

13 Q. What was *Joſeph?*

A. *Iſrael*'s beloved Son, but his Brethren hated him and ſold him.

14 Q. Who were the twelve Patriarchs?

A. The twelve Sons of *Jacob*, and the Fathers of the People of *Iſrael*.

15 Q. Who was *Pharaoh?* A. The King of *Egypt*, who drowned the Children, and he was drowned in the *Red Sea*.

* It is alſo the uſual Character of *Abraham*, that he was the *Father of the Faithful*, Rom. iv. 11. but it chiefly means the *Pattern of Believers*, which is much eaſier for Children to underſtand.

16 Q. Who

16 Q. Who was *Moſes?* A. The Deliverer and Lawgiver of the People of *Iſrael*, and he led them through the Wilderneſs.

17 Q. Who was *Aaron?*

A. *Moſes*'s Brother, and he was the firſt High Prieſt of *Iſrael.*

18 Q. Who were the *Prieſts?*

A. They who offered Sacrifices to GOD, and taught his Laws to Men.

19 Q. Who was *Joſhua?* A. The Leader of *Iſrael* when *Moſes* was dead, and he brought them into the promiſed Land.

20 Q. Who was *Samſon?*

A. The ſtrongeſt Man, and he ſlew a thouſand of his Enemies with a Jaw-bone.

21 Q. Who was *Eli?*

A. He was a good old Man, but GOD was angry with him for not keeping his Children from Wickedneſs.

22 Q. Who was *Samuel?*

A. The Prophet whom GOD called when he was a Child.

23 Q. Who were the *Prophets?*

A. Perſons whom GOD taught to foretel Things to come, and to make known his Mind to the World.

24 Q. Who was *David?*

A. The Man after GOD's own Heart, who was raiſed from a Shepherd to be a King.

25 Q. Who

25 Q. Who was *Goliath?*

A. The Giant whom *David* slew with a Sling and a Stone.

26 Q. Who was *Abſalom?*

A. *David's* wicked Son, who rebelled againſt his Father, and he was killed as he hung on a Tree.

27 Q. Who was *Solomon?*

A. *David's* beloved Son, the King of *Iſrael*, and the wiſeſt of Men.

28 Q. Who was *Joſiah?*

A. A very young King, whoſe Heart was tender, and he feared GOD.

29 Q. Who was *Iſaiah?*

A. The Prophet who ſpoke more of JESUS CHRIST than the reſt.

30 Q. Who was *Elijah?*

A. The Prophet who was carried to Heaven in a Chariot of Fire.

31 Q. Who was *Eliſha?* A. The Prophet who was mocked by the Children, and a wild Bear tore them to pieces.

32 Q. Who was *Gehazi?*

A. The Prophet's Servant, who told a Lie, and he was ſtruck with a Leproſy which could never be cured.

33 Q. Who was *Jonah?*

A. The Prophet who lay three Days and three Nights in the Belly of a Fiſh.

34 Q. Who

34 Q. Who was *Daniel*?

A. The Prophet who was saved in the Lion's Den, because he prayed to God.

35 Q. Who were *Shadrach*, *Meshach*, and *Abednego*?

A. The three *Jews* who would not worship an Image, and they were cast into the fiery Furnace, and were not burnt.

36 Q. Who was *Nebuchadnezzar*?

A. The proud King of *Babylon* who ran mad, and was driven among the Beasts.

The Scripture Names in the New Testament.

1 Q. WHO was JESUS CHRIST?

A. The Son of GOD, and the Saviour of Men.

2 Q. Who was the Virgin *Mary*?

A. The Mother of JESUS CHRIST.

3 Q. Who was *Joseph* the Carpenter?

A. The supposed Father of CHRIST, because he married his Mother.

4 Q. Who were the *Jews*? A. The Family of *Abraham*, *Isaac*, and *Jacob*, and GOD chose them for his own People.

5 Q. Who were the *Gentiles*?

A. All the Nations before the *Jews*.

6 Q. Who was *Cæsar*? A. The Emperor of *Rome*, and the Ruler of the World.

7 Q. Who

7 Q. Who was *Herod* the Great?

A. The King of *Judea*, who killed all the Children in a Town in hopes to kill CHRIST.

8 Q. Who was *John* the Baptiſt?

A. The Prophet who told the *Jews* that CHRIST was come.

9 Q. Who was the other *Herod*?

A. The King of *Galilee*, who cut off *John* the Baptiſt's Head.

10 Q. Who were the Diſciples of *Chriſt*?

A. Thoſe who learnt of him as their Maſter.

11 Q. Who was *Nathanael*?

A. A Diſciple of CHRIST, and a Man without Guile.

12 Q. Who was *Nicodemus*?

A. The fearful Diſciple who came to JESUS by Night.

13 Q. Who was *Mary Magdalene*?

A. A great Sinner, who waſhed CHRIST's Feet with her Tears, and wiped them with her Hair.

14 Q. Who was *Lazarus*?

A. A Friend of CHRIST, whom he raiſed to Life when he had been dead four Days.

15 Q. Who was *Martha*?

A. *Lazarus*'s Siſter, who was cumbered too much in making a Feaſt for CHRIST.

16 Q. Who was *Mary* the Sister of *Martha?*

A. The Woman that chose the better Part, and heard JESUS preach.

17 Q. Who were the Apostles?

A. Those twelve Disciples whom CHRIST chose for the chief Ministers of his Gospel.

18 Q. Who was *Simon Peter?*

A. The Apostle that denied CHRIST, and repented.

19 Q. Who was *John?*

A. The beloved Apostle that leaned on the Bosom of CHRIST.

20 Q. Who was *Thomas?*

A. The Apostle who was hard to be perswaded that CHRIST rose from the Dead.

21 Q. Who was *Judas?*

A. The wicked Disciple who betrayed CHRIST with a Kiss.

22 Q. Who was *Caiaphas?*

A. The High-Priest who condemned CHRIST.

23 Q. Who was *Pontius Pilate?*

A. The Governor of *Judea*, who ordered CHRIST to be crucified.

24 Q. Who was *Joseph* of *Arimathea?*

A. A rich Man that buried CHRIST in his own Tomb.

25 Q. Who were the four *Evangelists?*

A. *Matthew*,

A. *Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke*, and *John*, who wrote the History of CHRIST's Life and Death.

26 Q. Who were *Ananias* and *Saphira*?

A. A Man and his Wife who were ſtruck dead for telling a Lie.

27 Q. Who was *Stephen*?

A. The firſt Man who was put to Death for CHRIST's Sake.

28 Q. Who was *Paul*?

A. A young Man, who was firſt a Perſecutor, and afterwards an Apoſtle of Chriſt.

29 Q. Who was *Dorcas*? A. A good Woman who made Clothes for the Poor, and ſhe was raiſed from the Dead.

30 Q. Who was *Elymas*?

A. A wicked Man, who was ſtruck blind for ſpeaking againſt the Goſpel.

31 Q. Who was *Apollos*? A. A warm and lively Preacher of the Goſpel.

32 Q. Who was *Eutychus*?

A. A Youth who ſlept at Sermon, and falling down, was taken up dead.

33 Q. Who was *Timothy*?

A. A young Miniſter who knew the Scriptures from his Youth.

34 Q. Who was *Agrippa*?

A. A King who was almoſt perſuaded to be a Chriſtian.

PRAYERS *for little* CHILDREN.

Note, As ſoon as Children begin to learn theſe Catechiſms, they ſhould alſo learn the following Prayers.

The Infant's or young Child's Morning PRAYER.

ALmighty God, the Maker of every Thing in Heaven and Earth; the Darkneſs goes away, and the Day-light comes at thy Command: Thou art Good, and thou doſt Good continually.

I thank thee that thou haſt taken ſuch Care of me this Night, and that I am alive and well this Morning.

Save me, O God, from Evil all this Day long, and let me love and ſerve thee for ever, for the Sake of Jesus Christ thy Son. *Amen.*

Note, The Word *Amen,* ſignifies, that I believe all that I ſpeak, and that I deſire from my Heart all that I pray for with my Lips.

Note, When the Child is five or ſix Years old, he may leave out this *Amen,* and enlarge this Morning Prayer a little by adding the two following.

Beſtow on me every good Thing that I have need of for my Body and my Soul: Aſſiſt me by thy holy Spirit to do thy Will:

Will: Make me always afraid to offend thee, and let me live and die in thy Favour.

Hear the Prayer of a Child, O LORD, and pardon all my Sins, becauſe thy beloved Son died once on Earth for ſinful Creatures, though he never ſinned himſelf, and now he lives in Heaven to pray for them, and ſave them: Let his Name be praiſed for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Infant's, or young Child's Evening PRAYER.

O LORD GOD, who knoweſt all Things, thou ſeeſt me by Night as well as by Day.

I pray thee, for CHRIST's Sake, forgive me whatſoever I have done amiſs this Day, and keep me ſafe all this Night while I am aſleep.

I deſire to lie down under thy Care, and to abide for ever under thy Bleſſing, for thou art a GOD of all Power and everlaſting Mercy. *Amen.*

Note, When the Child is five or ſix Years old, he may leave out this *Amen*, and enlarge this Evening Prayer, by adding the two following Paragraphs:

Bleſs

Bleſs all my Friends* as well as myſelf: Do Good to them at all Times and in all Places, and help me always to ſerve them in love.

*Here the Child may mention Father and Mother, and other Relations.

And when I have done thy Will here, by thy Grace aſſiſting me, and enjoyed thy Bleſſings on Earth, then give my Soul a Place in Heaven to dwell with thee there, and with thy Son JESUS CHRIST: For Heaven and Earth, and all Things in them, are thine for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The young Child's PRAYER *for the Lord's Day, to be added to the Morning Prayer.*

SUFFER me not, O LORD, to waſte this thy Day in Sin and Folly; but let me worſhip thee with much Delight. Teach me to know more of thee, and to ſerve thee better than ever I have done before, that I may be fitter to dwell in Heaven, where thy Worſhip and Service are everlaſting. *Amen.*

The young Child's PRAYER *for the Lord's Day, to be added to the Evening Prayer.*

O Moſt gracious GOD, let me never forget the many good Things that I have heard this Day! But let them abide

in

in my Heart ſo as to amend my Life, that I may be able to give a good Account of them to Jeſus Chriſt our Lord and Saviour, when he comes to judge the World at the laſt Day. *Amen.*

The Infant's GRACE *before Meat.*

BLESS me, O Lord, and let my Food ſtrengthen me to ſerve thee for Jeſus Chriſt's Sake. *Amen.*

The Infant's GRACE *before Meat.*

I deſire to thank GOD who gives me Food to eat every Day of my Life. *Amen.*

The young Child's GRACE *before Meat.*

I entreat thee, O Lord, that the good Things which I eat and drink may keep me alive, and make me able to do thee ſome Service, for the Sake of Jeſus Chriſt thy Son and our Saviour. *Amen.*

The young Child's GRACE *after Meat.*

I thank thee, O heavenly Father, for my daily Food, and for every Bleſſing thou beſtoweſt on me: Accept my Thankſgiving for Chriſt's Sake. *Amen.*

THE END.

Published by the AUTHOR for the Use of CHILDREN.

Divine Songs for Children. Price 6 *d.*

The Art of Reading and Writing English, with Rules for reading Verſe, and for true Spelling. Price 1 *s.*

Prayers for the daily Uſe and Imitation of Children, ſuited for their different Ages, and the various Occaſions of their younger Years. Together with *Inſtructions to Youth in the Duty of Prayer,* drawn up by Way of Queſtion and Anſwer, and a *ſerious Addreſs* to them on that Subject. Price 1 *s.*

Catechiſms or Inſtructions in the Principles of the Chriſtian Religion, and the Hiſtory of Scripture, compoſed for Children and Youth, according to their different Ages; to which is prefixed a large *Diſcourſe on the Way of Inſtruction by Catechiſms.* Price 2 *s.* 6 *d.*

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE large *Diſcourſe of Inſtruction by Catechiſms* being omitted, the ſeveral Catechiſms contained in this laſt Book, are now printed ſeparately in ſmaller Volumes, for the Uſe of Children

dren of different Ages, together with a few Prayers for Children, and are publiſhed under the following Titles.

The firſt Set of Catechiſms and Prayers; or the Religion of little Children under Seven or Eight Years of Age. Price 2*d.*

The ſecond Set of Catechiſms and Prayers; or ſome Helps to the Religion of Children, and their Knowledge of the Scripture, from Seven to Twelve Years of Age. Price 6*d.*

The Aſſembly's Catechiſm with Notes; or *the Shorter Catechiſm compoſed by the Aſſembly of Divines at* Weſtminſter: To which is added, *A Brief Explanation of the more difficult Words and Phraſes* contained in it, for the Inſtruction of Youth at Twelve or Fourteen Years of Age. Price 4*d.*

A Preſervative from the Sins and Follies of Childhood and Youth; written in the Way of Queſtion and Anſwer: To which is added, *A large Catalogue of remarkable Scripture Names*, Collected for the Uſe of Children, and explained for their better Acquaintance with the Holy Scriptures.

291294